

Standard 6-3

The student will demonstrate an understanding of the Middle Ages and the emergence of nation-states.

- 6.3.2** Explain the development of English government and legal practices, including the principles of the Magna Carta, its effect on the feudal system, and its contribution to the development of representative government in England. (P, H)

Taxonomy Level: B 2 Understand/Conceptual Knowledge

Previous/future knowledge:

This is the first time students have been taught the concept of the English government and legal practices.

In Global Studies, students will explain the long-term effects of political changes that occurred in Europe during the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries, including the emergence of a strong monarchical form of government and the changes in the governments of England and France as they compared with one another (GS-3.2).

It is essential for students to recognize how feudalism in England (institutionalized by William the Conqueror) weakened the power of nobles and strengthened the power of the monarchy. Over time the nobles rejected this growing monarchical power, eventually rebelling against the King [John] and forcing him to sign the Magna Carta. Considered one of history's most important democratic documents, the Magna Carta set forth the basic rights of the English people. Originally these rights applied only to nobles and the Magna Carta was only intended to restore their power while limiting King John's. Eventually these rights and principles were applied to all English citizens. Among the rights and principles maintained in the Magna Carta are the rule of law, the development of representative assemblies, and the right to approve taxes. Subsequent re-interpretation would also credit principles such as due process and trial by jury to this document. It's important for students to understand that because the Magna Carta limited the power of the king it set the stage for the weakening of feudalism and its hierarchical structure. Furthermore, the Great Council that was to advise (according to the interests of the nobles) the king and would eventually grow into the English Parliament and become the first democratic, legislative body in modern Europe. It's important for students to understand that the rebellious actions of the nobles resulting in the Magna Carta set a precedent for limiting government and the continued legislative/executive conflict over the centuries which would expand representative government and individual rights.

It is not essential for students to know minor principles of the Magna Carta, or where it was signed. Students do not need to know specific division of England's representative government which eventually developed.

Assessment guidelines: This indicator calls for students to be able to **explain** the impact of the Magna Carta on the development of England's government. It's appropriate for students to be able to **identify** and **describe** key principles of the Magna Carta. It would be fitting for students to **evaluate** and determine which principle(s) is most important.

Assessment should call on students to **recognize** the impact of the Magna Carta on feudalism and determine its role/impact in establishing representative government. It would be suitable to have students compare English government prior to and after the signing of the Magna Carta.

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